

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 18, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 31

Introduced by Senator Speier

**(Coauthors: Senators Bowen, Denham, Ducheny, Kuehl,
Machado, McPherson, Morrow, Romero, and Scott)**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bates, Benoit, Canciamilla, Chavez,
Cox, Dutra, Frommer, Laird, Levine, Pavley, and Runner)**

May 13, 2003

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 31—Relative to California
Missions Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 31, as amended, Speier. California Missions Day.

This measure would declare California Missions Day as July 16, 2003, to increase public awareness of the California missions in state history and would encourage annual observance of this day.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The first California mission was founded on July
2 16, 1769; and

3 WHEREAS, Eventually a chain of 21 missions and various
4 sub-missions extended along the coast of California on the El
5 Camino Real; and

6 WHEREAS, As landmarks for more than two centuries,
7 California's missions represent the state's oldest historical
8 treasures; and

9 WHEREAS, The craftsmanship, knowledge, and cultural
10 influence of the Native American people made a lasting

1 contribution to the early settlement of California and to the
2 development of California's missions; and

3 WHEREAS, The padres of the California missions first planted
4 the grapes that still influence the wines of California; and

5 WHEREAS, The mission's orchards included the first orange,
6 olive, and pomegranate trees brought to the fertile soil of our state;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, California's missions are recognized for the
9 important impact they have had on the development of California,
10 including its art, architecture, agriculture, food, music, language,
11 apparel, and recreation; and

12 WHEREAS, The presidios have grown into the four major
13 cities of San Diego, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and San Francisco;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The pueblos of Los Angeles and San Jose have
16 grown into major business and cultural centers; and

17 WHEREAS, Some missions have grown into the pleasant towns
18 of San Juan Capistrano, San Luis Obispo, San Juan Bautista, and
19 Sonoma; and

20 WHEREAS, California's missions have contributed greatly to
21 the rich historical and cultural heritage of California; and

22 WHEREAS, The missions continue to influence the California
23 lifestyle. Ranches today reflect many of the ranching techniques
24 and traditions, such as barbecues, fiestas, and rodeos, that began
25 during the mission period; and

26 WHEREAS, California's missions are the most visited
27 historical attractions in the state, drawing ~~over~~ *more than* 5 million
28 visitors ~~a~~ *per* year, including a large number of international
29 visitors, and account for a sizeable contribution to the state
30 economy; and

31 WHEREAS, California's missions have become synonymous
32 with the state's fourth grade curriculum. Pupils build mission
33 models and write research reports as part of California history
34 lessons, which serves as an important-~~education~~ *educational*
35 function in teaching young people about the role of the missions
36 in the history of our state and nation; and

37 WHEREAS, From the vineyards of Sonoma to the ranches of
38 Santa Barbara to the adobe arcades and red tile roofs of San Diego,
39 California's missions have left their mark on who we are and what
40 we have become; now, therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California
3 declares July 16, 2003, as California Missions Day to increase
4 public awareness of the California Missions and their vital role in
5 California history; and be it further
6 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the annual
7 observance of this day so that California's youth may continue to
8 learn from our history; and be it further
9 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
10 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

